

MINEHEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

R E P O R T

O F T H E

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

F O R T H E Y E A R

1969



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To the Minehead Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1969 on the health of the Minehead Urban District.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Area: 2,739 acres

Population: 7,720 (Registrar General's mid-year Estimate)

Rateable Value: £519,032

Sum represented by a penny rate: £2,062

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year

				<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Live Births:	Legitimate ..	..	..	83	44	39
	Illegitimate ..	..	..	4	1	3
Still Births:	Legitimate ..	..	..	1	1	-
	Illegitimate ..	..	..	-	-	-
Deaths from all causes		..	..	181	74	107
Deaths of Infants under 1 year		..	..	1	-	1
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population:				11.3		
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population:				23.4		

England and Wales

Estimated Mid-Year Home Population: .. 48,826,800

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Live Births	797,542	16.3 per 1,000 population
Still Births	10,662	13.0 per 1,000 total births
Deaths	579,463	11.9 per 1,000 population
Infant Mortality (deaths under 1 year of age) ..	14,397	18.0 per 1,000 live births

Deaths

<u>Cause</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	2	2	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus ..	1	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ..	1	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine ..	2	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx ..	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ..	6	5	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ..	3	-	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ..	2	-	2
Leukaemia	2	1	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	8	3	5
Diabetes Mellitus	2	-	2
Anaemias	1	-	1
Mental Disorders	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc. ..	2	2	-
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	2	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	5	1	4
Ischaemic Heart Disease	49	24	25
Other forms of Heart Disease	10	2	8
Cerebrovascular Disease	31	8	23
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ..	13	3	10
Influenza	1	1	-
Pneumonia	12	7	5
Bronchitis and Emphysema	5	4	1
Asthma	1	-	1

/Peptic Ulcer ...

<u>Cause</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Peptic Ulcer	.. .. .. .. ..	3	2	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	.. ..	2	-	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	.. ..	3	-	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	.. .. ..	2	2	-
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	.. ..	2	-	2
Congenital Anomalies	.. .. ..	2	-	2
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	.. ..	2	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	.. .. ..	1	1	-
Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries	.. ..	1	1	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES		181	74	107

Climatic Conditions

<u>Rainfall</u>		<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>
Annual	.. .. .. .. ..	34.64 ins.	37.72 ins.
Average Yearly	.. .. .. .. ..	33.4 ins.	33.4 ins.
From 1st June to 30th September	.. ..	14.79 ins.	10.83 ins.
Days during period less than 0.01	..	61	80
Days during period with 0.01 and 0.04	..	17	15
Days during period more than 0.04	..	44	27

Temperatures

Highest Air 9th August	.. .. .. ..	77° F.	80° F.
Lowest Air 18th February	.. .. .. ..	25° F.	24° F.
Lowest Air 14th December	.. .. .. ..	27° F.	18° F.
Lowest Air during period 1st June - 30th September	.. .. .. ..	49° F.	39° F.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Disease

<u>Notifiable Diseases</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Measles	.. .. .. .. ..	23	13	10
Scarletina	.. .. .. .. ..	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	.. .. .. .. ..	1	1	-
Erysipelas	.. .. .. .. ..	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	.. .. .. .. ..	-	-	-
Dysentery	.. .. .. .. ..	13	6	7
Food Poisoning	.. .. .. .. ..	2	1	1
Infective Jaundice	.. .. .. .. ..	3	1	2
Acute Meningitis	.. .. .. .. ..	1	-	1

1969 was the first full year during which the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1968 were operative. Three cases of infective jaundice were notified.

There was a small outbreak of Sonne Dysentery amongst the children in Alcombe in March. This relatively mild but distressing condition was widespread throughout the South-West at the time.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT

Home Nursing, Midwives and Home Helps

These services are provided by the Health Department of the Somerset County Council.

Hospitals

The Minehead and West Somerset Hospital is managed by the West Somerset Hospital Management Committee. The Hospital provides medical, surgical and casualty treatment and out-patient clinics. A Family Planning Clinic is held at the Hospital.

Health Centre and Dental Clinic

These are provided by the Somerset County Council at 54 Summerland Avenue, Minehead.

Nursing Homes

There are four nursing homes in the district providing care for the aged and sick.

Ambulance Facilities

These facilities are provided by the Somerset County Council with ambulances stationed in Minehead.

Old Persons Home

An Old Persons Home is provided by the Somerset County Council at Wyndham House, Martlet Road, Minehead, and seventeen Old Persons Dwellings with Warden accommodation are provided by the Council with grant aid from the Somerset County Council.

HYGIENE AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

General

The number of inspections and visits made to various premises in the district was 1,165 and are detailed below:-

Abattoir	..	..	..	441
Food premises	..	..	..	155
Rodent control	..	..	..	40
Housing	..	..	..	28
Water Supplies	..	..	..	69
Public Health	..	..	..	197
Infectious Disease	..	..	..	1
Offices, Shops, etc.			..	234

Housing

The total number of dwellings in the district is 3,088. During the year 35 dwellings were erected by private enterprise.

The total number of applicants for Council houses at the end of the year was 127.

There was no case of overcrowding reported during the year.

Number of Post-War Houses erected from 1st April, 1945 to 31st Dec., 1969				Housing Programme for 1969	
By Local Authority		By Private Enterprise		-	
No. of permanent dwellings in District as at 31.12.68 (a)	273	Gained from conversions and erected during 1969 (b)	Total (a) + (b)	Less Houses demolished closed etc. during year	No. of permanent dwellings in district as at 31.12.69 L.A. P.E.
L.A.	377	-	377	-	377 -
P.E.	2,665	46	2,711	-	- 2,711
TOTAL	3,042	46	3,088	-	3,088

Improvement Grants

Number of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority during the year.

	Up to August 1969				After August 1969			
	Received		Approved		Received		Approved	
	Appli-cations	No. of Dwell-ings	Appli-cations	No. of Dwell-ings	Appli-cations	No. of Dwell-ings	Appli-cations	No. of Dwell-ings
Improvement Grants	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Standard Grants	11	11	11	11	2	2	2	2
Special Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Water Supplies

The supply of water to the town is undertaken by the West Somerset Water Board. There are six sources of supply with Nutscale supplying the bulk of the water to the town and the other sources are from Broadwood, Longwood, Periton, Middlecombe and Moor Brake. All the sources, except Moor Brake which is from a borehole, are collected from land springs. All the supplies are chlorinated.

Results of Samples taken for analysis

Raw water				Treated water			
Bacteriological		Chemical		Bacteriological		Chemical	
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
18	21	5	-	38	3	-	-

The supply of water was adequate during the year. Complaints have been made from time to time regarding the discolouration of the water which is due to the soft water corroding the iron mains. Frequent flushing of the mains was carried out by the Water Board.

Sewerage

The new Eastern Area Relief Sewer continued to operate satisfactorily and no flooding was experienced in this area. Work was carried out in the Western Area on removing surface water from the combined sewers and no reports of major flooding were received. Beach pollution has now been considerably reduced since the operation of the new sewerage system.

Refuse Disposal

Negotiations took place on the possibility of tipping pulverised refuse on the marshes, but these were delayed because of problems in dealing with the drainage from the tip. Further negotiations are taking place for an alternative site, but in the meantime the Quay West tip is being raised to a higher level than originally intended.

Rodent Control

One part-time operator is employed to carry out the treatment of premises. Dwellinghouses are not charged for this service but the whole cost of treating business premises is recovered. During the year 70 properties were found to be infested with rats and 5 properties with mice. A minor infestation of the sewers was found.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises

Premises	Number Registered	Number of persons Employed
Offices	49	652
Retail Shops	120	848
Wholesale Departments	2	16
Catering Establishments	18	924
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-
TOTAL	189	2,440

Factories

Particulars of premises registered under the Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959 and the inspections made are as follows:-

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:-

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	7	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	46	40	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	52	47	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Number of cases in which defects were found		Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
			Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ..	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding ..	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature ..	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation ..	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient ..	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ..	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-

3. Outwork:-

	No. of out-workers in August list required by section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel:						
Making etc.	17	-	-	-	-	-
Cleaning and Washing	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	17	-	-	-	-	-

Swimming Pools

There are three swimming pools in Minehead. The Lido, Warren Road is privately owned, and is filled with sea water; two are in the Holiday Camp and are filled with fresh water from the Camp supply. The treatment adopted to maintain their purity is re-circulation, filtration and automatic chlorination.

Samples are taken frequently to ensure that the degree of chlorination is maintained and there is no trace of bacterial infection. Results of the tests indicated that in all the pools a safe bathing water was maintained.

Holiday Camp

The Camp caters for approximately 140,000 people during the summer season. There was a further improvement in the standard of hygiene but at times conditions caused some concern, usually because of a lack of sufficiently trained staff. The Company continues the services of a qualified Public Health Inspector (retired) as Hygiene Adviser at the Camp.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

The general standard of cleanliness of all food premises in the town was satisfactory and only minor informal action needed to be taken in a few cases.

The number of premises in the district are as follows:-

Abattoir	1	Fried Fish Shops	3
Bakehouses	0	Fruiterers and Greengrocers ..	10
Bakers' Shops	4	Grocers and Confectioners ..	34
Butchers	6	Holiday Camp	1
Cafes	16	Hostels	1
Chemists	5	Hotels with Restaurants ..	9
Clubs, etc.	8	Hotels, Residential	38
Canteens	2	Licensed Premises	9
Church Halls	6	Pie Factory	1
Dairies	1	Restaurants	8
Dairy Shops	2	School Kitchens	4
Fishmongers	2	Snack Bars	3

Milk

Number of Milk Samples taken in Minehead Urban District during 1969

Pasteurised	52
Ultra-Heat Treated	-
Untreated	4
	—
	56
	—

Note:

The untreated samples, all of which were negative to the test for Brucella, were collected from Mr. F. G. Baker within the Urban District. He is licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in the Rural District of Williton at Greenaleigh Farm, Minehead. One sample failed the Methylene Blue Test.

Ice Cream

One property is registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream and 58 premises for the sale of ice cream.

Meat

There is one privately owned abattoir in the district supplying meat for their own sales.

/Carcases inspected and condemned: ...

Carcases inspected and condemned:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	365	-	6	2,298	915	-
Number inspected	365	-	6	2,298	915	-
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	1	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	44	-	-	29	18	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	12%	-	-	1.2%	1.9%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:-	<u>All animals</u>					
(a) Tuberculosis	-					
(b) Cysticercosis	-					
(c) Other	754					
Total (in lbs.) condemned	754					

Food Condemned

Meat and meat products	..	..	..	..	157 tins and cartons
Bacon	..	..	..	..	224 lbs.
Vegetables	..	..	..	..	125 tins
Fruit	..	..	..	..	114 tins
Soups	..	..	..	..	-
Sponge Flans	..	..	..	..	20
Puff Pastry	..	..	..	..	9
Ice Cream (Various)	..	..	..	..	Value £4. 5s. Od.
Frozen Foods (Various)	..	..	..	..	Value £10. 1s. 2d.

Food Poisoning

Two cases of salmonella food poisoning were notified, but on investigation it was found that the disease had been contracted abroad.

I became Temporary Acting Medical Officer of Health on 1st July, 1969 but this report covers the full calendar year.

I should like to thank Mr. Symes, your Public Health Inspector and Mr. Burgess, your Clerk, for their unvarying helpfulness.

J. Beasley

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Taunton.

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